

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-6. (Canceled)

7. **(Previously presented)** A method for retarding plaster setting and plaster preparations, comprising admixing with said plaster or said plaster preparations the following composition:

- a) tartaric acid in an amount of at least 0.01 to 1.0 weight % relative to the plaster amount;
- b) sodium trimetaphosphate in an amount of 0.05 to 0.5 weight %, relative to the plaster amount; and
- c) 0 to at least 0.01 weight % , relative to said plaster or said plaster preparations, sodium polyphosphate with an average chain length of at least 4 to 50 phosphate units; which is further

characterized in that the components b) said sodium trimetaphosphate and/or c) sodium polyphosphate are mixed together in the dry state and are added to the plaster to be retarded in the form of a fine-particle powder, having a particle size distribution for which at least 95% of the components are smaller than 200µm.

8. **(Currently amended)** The method for retarding plaster setting and plaster

preparations as defined in claim [[6]] 7, characterized in that said composition comprises an amount of sodium polyphosphate of at least 0.01 weight %, relative to the plaster amount.

9. **(Previously presented)** An additive composition for retarding plaster setting and plaster preparations comprising the following components:
- a) tartaric acid in an amount of at least 0.01 to 1.0 weight %, relative to the plaster amount;
 - b) sodium trimetaphosphate in an amount of 0.05 to 0.5 weight %, relative to the plaster amount, and
 - c) 0 to at least 0.01 weight per cent sodium polyphosphate, having an average chain length of at least 4 to 50 phosphate units, wherein the components are added to the plaster and the plaster preparation to be retarded in the form of a fine-particle powder.
10. **(Currently amended)** A method for retarding plaster setting and plaster preparations, comprising admixing with said plaster or said plaster preparations the following composition:~~Plaster and plaster preparations further comprising the composition of claim 9~~
- a) tartaric acid in an amount of at least 0.01 to 1.0 weight %, relative to the plaster amount;
 - b) sodium trimetaphosphate in an amount of 0.05 to 0.5 weight %, relative to the plaster amount, and

- c) 0 to at least 0.01 weight per cent sodium polyphosphate, having an average chain length of at least 4 to 50 phosphate units, wherein the components are added to the plaster and the plaster preparation to be retarded in the form of a fine-particle powder.